Fixed roadside hazards vary in size and shape, and in the degree of danger they present. The traffic passing by varies as well in volume, speed and density. For these reasons a selection from various types of crash cushions can be designed to meet the special requirements of a particular hazard site.

Figure I-3-3 suggests the area that should be made available for impact attenuator installation. Although it depicts a gore location, the same recommendations will generally apply to other types of fixed object hazards that require shielding. The unrestricted conditions represent the minimum dimensions for all locations except for those sites where it can be demonstrated that the increased costs for obtaining these dimensions (as opposed to those for restricted conditions) will be unreasonable. The preferred condition dimensions should be considered optimum. The space provided by these dimensions will seldom be fully used by an impact attenuator.